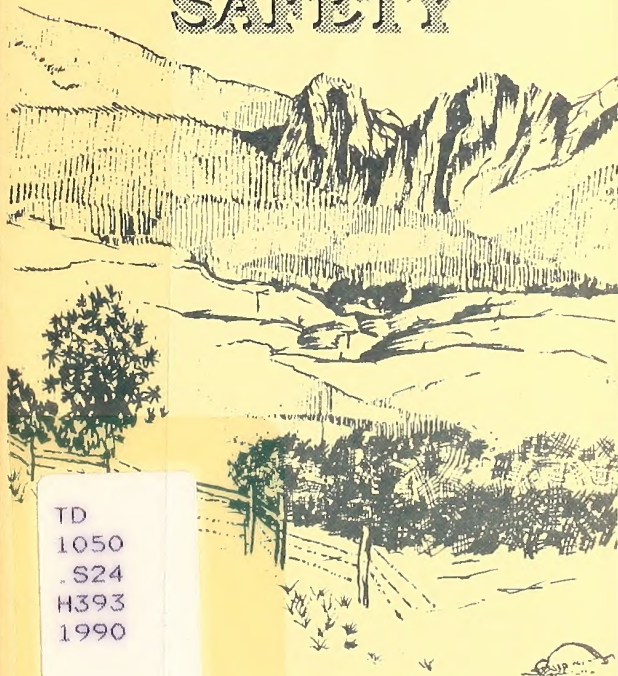


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Bureau of Land Management

HAZARDOUS WASTE, THE PUBLIC LAND AND YOUR SAFETY



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The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages over 270 million acres of public land, primarily in the 11 western states and Alaska. These lands provide the American public with many resources — minerals for industry, food for livestock, wildlife habitat, and scenic open spaces for hiking, picnicking, camping, hunting



Campers, hikers, fishers, hunters and others who use public lands must be aware of hazardous wastes they could come upon.

and fishing. As the Nation's largest land management agency, the Bureau of Land Management is also responsible for the health and safety of those who use the public land.

This brochure provides information about the potential for hazardous wastes being found on public land. It also describes what people encountering suspicious substances should do to provide for their safety and to help assure proper responses to the hazard potential posed by the material.

WHAT ARE HAZARDOUS WASTES?

Hazardous wastes are byproducts of our modern economy. They are what is left over from the manufacturing of many of the things we use in our homes, at work, in school or things we use while we enjoy the outdoors. If not handled properly, the oil drained from your car, leftover fertilizer or pesticides, used cleaning fluids, chemicals used in the production of medicines, and unused paint in cans all can be hazardous waste; and the list goes on.

Hazardous wastes come in many forms. They can be either liquid, solid or gas. They are materials which can be harmful to humans or the environment when not



Hazardous wastes often result from household cleaning agents, fertilizers, car oil and other ordinary household items.

handled properly. Hazardous wastes can be identified as being either toxic, corrosive, ignitable or explosive.

Toxic: Can make people, animals or livestock sick.

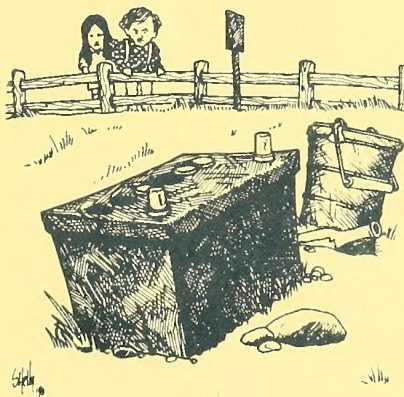
Corrosive: Can eat through metal, leather, wood or cloth and do damage to the skin or eyes.

Ignitable: Can burst into flame.

Explosive: Can explode under certain conditions.

WHERE DO HAZARDOUS WASTES COME FROM?

Hazardous wastes come from manufacturing, agriculture and



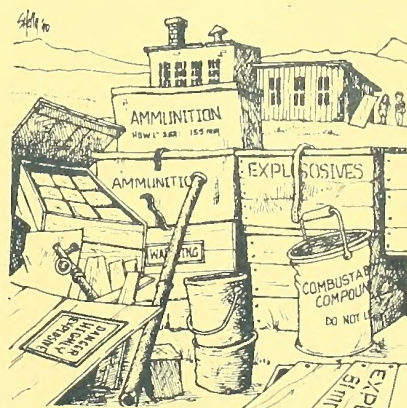
Hazardous wastes come in all forms, shapes and sizes. This typical automobile battery could emit a dangerous substance or be explosive.

the use of many common products in our daily lives. Large and small companies use chemicals to produce the goods and services we

enjoy every day like automobiles, shoes, computers, clothes, food, medicines, dry-cleaning, and house paint. Often what is left over from many of these processes can be hazardous. In fact, about 10 to 15 percent of all wastes generated in the United States are hazardous. That is, they can be toxic, corrosive, ignitable or explosive if not handled properly.

WHAT DO HAZARDOUS WASTES LOOK LIKE?

You cannot tell by sight alone if a substance is hazardous. Another concern is that hazardous wastes can occur in the form of a liquid, solid or gas. A few things to be on the lookout for might be: piles of trash or containers; substances leaking from tanks or barrels; substances that

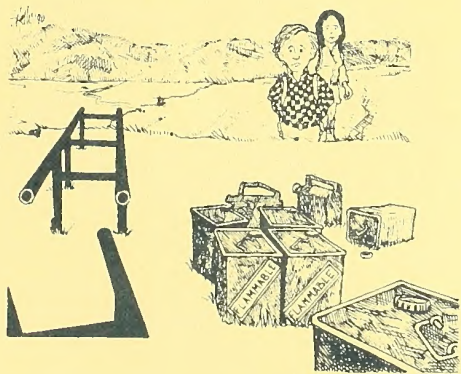


Be suspicious of containers, barrels, or piles of trash. Immediately report any suspicious materials to the BLM or other authorities.

smell bad; bags or piles of powder or granulated material; discolored water or other liquids; substances found in boxes marked **flammable** or **explosive**; substances found in containers marked with the traditional poison insignia, the skull and cross bones; or any group of unmarked containers such as plastic jugs or milk cartons.

WHERE WOULD I FIND HAZARDOUS WASTES?

Hazardous wastes might be found anywhere. Unfortunately, until recently, most Americans did not realize that many of the things they



Unfortunately, secluded public lands often are used for illegal dumping of hazardous wastes.

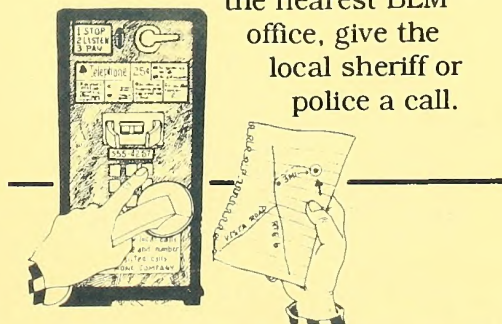
threw away were potentially hazardous. Because of this, many hazardous wastes have been dumped in open fields, in canyons, at old mine sites or in mine shafts, out on the desert, in streams and rivers or in secluded places in the forests.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I THINK I HAVE FOUND HAZARDOUS WASTES ON PUBLIC LAND?

If you come upon suspicious substances, you should not, under any circumstance, go near them or touch them. Proper authorities should determine what the substance is. You should not endanger yourself or your family by trying to decide if a substance is hazardous or not.

If you think you have come across a hazardous substance, please contact the nearest BLM office and report the location. It is important that you be able to describe, to the best of your ability, where the substance was found. Under no circumstances should you take a sample of the material. Leave that to those who are trained in the field of hazardous materials management. If you are unsure of how to contact

the nearest BLM office, give the local sheriff or police a call.



Never attempt to handle suspicious materials.
Call the nearest BLM office or local authorities.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT STATE OFFICES

ALASKA:

222 W. 7th Avenue, #13
Anchorage, AK 99513-7599
(907) 271-5555

ARIZONA:

3707 N. 7th Street
P.O. Box 16563
Phoenix, AZ 85011
(602) 640-5504

BIFC:

Boise Interagency Fire Center
3905 Vista Avenue
Boise, ID 83705
(208) 389-2457

CALIFORNIA:

2800 Cottage Way, E-2841
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 978-4746

COLORADO:

2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, CO 80215-7076
(303) 239-3667

EASTERN STATES:

350 S. Pickett Street
Alexandria, VA 22304
(703) 461-1365

IDAHO:

3380 Americana Terrance
Boise, ID 83706
(208) 334-1406

MONTANA:

222 N. 32nd Street
P.O. Box 36800
Billings, MT 59107
(406) 255-2913

NEVADA:

850 Harvard Way
P.O. Box 12000
Reno, NV 89520
(702) 785-6586

NEW MEXICO:

120 Post Office and
Federal Bldg.
P.O. Box 1449
Santa Fe
NM 87504-1449
(505) 988-6316

OREGON:

1300 N.E. 44th Avenue
Portland, OR 97208-2965
P.O. Box 2965
(503) 208-7287

PTC:

Phoenix Training Center
5050 N. 19th Avenue
Suite 300
Phoenix, AZ 85015
(606) 640-2651

SC:

Service Center - Denver
Denver Federal Center
Denver, CO 80225
(303) 236-6425

UTAH:

324 South State Street
CFS Finan. Ctr. Bldg.,
Suite 301
Salt Lake City,
UT 84111-2303
(801) 539-4021

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2515 Warren Avenue
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Cheyenne, WY 82003
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